



**USDA Forest Service**  
**Rocky Mountain Region**  
**OUTREACH NOTICE**

**Black Hills National Forest**  
**Custer, South Dakota**

**GS-1001-4 Visitor Information Assistant**

**(Vacancy Announcement expected to be open August 8, 2016 thru August 12, 2016)**

The Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District will be seeking to fill 1 to 2 temporary, full-time GS-1001-4 Visitor Information Assistants in **Custer, South Dakota**. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity and to assess interest. This position is being advertised as a temporary position and will be posted on [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) on August 8, 2016. Applicants should carefully read the announcement to determine eligibility requirements.

**Position Description**

This position works for the Hell Canyon Ranger District but will be physically located at the Supervisor's Office.

Desirable job skills and knowledge include:

- Ability to communicate with the public in a clear concise manner both orally and in writing
- General knowledge of the Black Hills activities, programs, facilities, policies and functions
- Ability to become a collection officer and work with the interpretative association on sales, ordering, stocking, inventory, and reporting
- Ability to handle clerical duties such as mailing of letters and packages, updates to phone lists, scheduling conference rooms, fleet use reporting, and use of a variety of office and computer equipment

**Physical Requirements**

The work varies from sedentary to moderately active. The applicant must be able to handle long periods of sitting at a desk or standing at the counter. Occasional physical activity will include lifting, bending, and carrying of moderate weight objects.

## **\*HELL CANYON RANGER DISTRICT\***

The Hell Canyon Ranger District manages approximately 440,000 acres of the Black Hills National Forest, with a timber program offering from 10-20 million board feet annually. The District currently has a permanent workforce of 60 employees, with an additional 60 seasonal employees hired during the summer field season. One fourth of the employees work out of an office in Newcastle, WY, 37 miles west of Custer; all other employees work out of Custer, SD. The district has a multiple use program including ponderosa pine management, range, fire, fuels, lands, minerals, wildlife, heritage resources, recreation and wilderness. The district manages the Black Elk Wilderness, and the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve within the Black Hills National Forest.

## **\* BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST \***

The Black Hills National Forest employs 275 full-time permanent employees on four ranger districts and at the Forest Supervisor's Office. Offices are located in Sundance and Newcastle, Wyoming and Custer, Rapid City and Spearfish, South Dakota. The Black Hills National Forest is the largest forest in the Rocky Mountain Region in terms of budget, workforce, timber production, and fire and fuels management.

The Black Hills has 1.2 million acres of forested hills and mountains. It is 110 miles long and 70 miles wide, approximately 87 percent in South Dakota and 13 percent in Wyoming. The Black Hills rise from the adjacent grasslands into a ponderosa pine forest to 7,246 feet at Harney Peak Lookout in the Black Elk Wilderness. It is described as an "Island in the Plains" with the diversity of wildlife and plants reaching from the eastern forests to the western plains. The Forest boasts a good balance of multiple uses, such as timber production, grazing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, rock climbing, mining and wildlife viewing. Big game hunting opportunities include deer, elk, mountain lion and antelope.

The Black Hills area consistently rates as one of the top five tourist destinations in the nation. Four National Park System destinations lie within the Black Hills proper: Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, and Devils Tower National Monument. Custer State Park, the nation's second largest state park, is within five minutes of Custer. Historic Deadwood/Lead offers an interesting look at the Wild West, and features exciting gaming opportunities. Several beautiful mountain lakes and blue-ribbon trout streams attract thousands of recreation users to the Black Hills each year.

## **\* THE COMMUNITY OF CUSTER, SD \***

The duty station will be in **Custer, South Dakota**, population approximately 2,100. Facilities in Custer include two grocery stores, five gas stations, a small hospital, a clinic, and two dentists. Churches include Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, Wesleyan, Church of Christ, and Non-Denominational. The school system is on a four-day school week and has an

average graduating class of near 75. One elementary school (others are also located in Hermosa and Spring Creek), one middle school, and one high school are located in Custer.

Rapid City is the nearest larger town with a population of 55,000. It is located 45 miles north of Custer and includes Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, shopping malls, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, a regional hospital and all other typical services found in a larger city.

The summers in Custer (elevation 5300') are moderate with moderate rainfall. Temperatures generally range from 60-90 degrees. Winters are mild with moderate snowfall, and temperatures generally range from 0-40 degrees, with occasional below zero temperatures. Housing is available for purchase in Custer with prices starting at \$80,000 in town and \$200,000+ out of town. Rentals are limited with prices ranging from \$500-\$900 per month.

Tourism is a main industry in Custer, and support services such as motels and restaurants are abundant. Tourist attractions include Flintstones theme park and Crazy Horse Memorial. Summertime events include Gold Discovery Days in July, Custer Cruising motorcycle rally in August, several balloon rallies and a professional summer stock theater company's plays at the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer State Park. The Mickelson Trail stretches 150 miles from Deadwood to Edgemont, one end of the Black Hills National Forest to the other. This trail provides non-motorized recreation opportunities such as biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

Five National Park system destinations are adjacent to or within 50 miles of the Black Hills National Forest. These include Mount Rushmore National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Badlands National Park, and Devils Tower National Monument. In addition, the nation's second largest state park, Custer State Park, is located in the southeastern Black Hills area.

You can also contact the Custer Chamber of Commerce at 615 Washington, Custer, SD 57730 or (605) 673-8844 or visit their web site at [www.custersd.com/](http://www.custersd.com/)

**OUTREACH INTEREST FORM**  
**GS-1001-4 Visitor Information Assistant**

Black Hills National Forest  
Hell Canyon Ranger District

**Please respond by August 12, 2016 to:**  
**Terri Czaplewski, [taczaplewski@fs.fed.us](mailto:taczaplewski@fs.fed.us), 605-673-9340**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work, Home or Mobile? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this position? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

\_\_\_\_\_ Schedule A (Person with Disabilities)

\_\_\_\_\_ Veterans Recruitment Act

\_\_\_\_\_ Veterans w/30% Compensable Disability

\_\_\_\_\_ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act Of 1998

\_\_\_\_\_ Former Peace Corps Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Submission of this form is voluntary ----- Thank you for your interest.***